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and new interpretations may serve to clear up. On this account it seems of importance that the original sources of information should be published in the ancient language, so that every one may have it in his power to consult them, and to form his own judgment as to the accuracy of the interpretations given.

With regard to such traces of the residence and settlement of the ancient Northmen as, it is presumed, are still to be met with in Massachusetts and Rhode Island—the countries which formed the destination of their earliest American expeditions—we will content ourselves for the present with referring to the hints, which are contained in the work itself. This matter will continue to form a subject for the accurate investigation of the Committee of the Royal Society of Northern Antiquaries on the Ante-Columbian History of America; and the result of this investigation, together with such additional elucidations of the ancient MSS. as we may have it in our power to furnish, shall be communicated in the Annals and Memoirs of the Society.

VIII.—*Sketch of the Island and Gulf of Symi, on the South-western Coast of Anatolia, in February, 1837.* By James Brooke, Esq.

[The island of Symi* lies about 18 miles N.W. of the northern point of Rhodes, at the mouth of a gulf of the same name—the ancient *Sinus Doridis*. The island is mentioned, in modern times, by Hasselquist in 1750; by Van Egmont and Heyman in 1700; and by Dr. Clarke in 1801. But of the Gulf of Symi nothing accurate is known; its outline, as well as that of the Gulf of Cos, from which it is separated only by the peninsula formerly called *Triopium*, is most incorrectly marked on our charts:—this part of the coast lies between the western termination of Captain Beaufort's survey of Karamania, which only came as far as the Gulf of Makri, and the survey of the coast of Asia Minor, now executing by Lieutenant Graves, R.N.—but as it is probable that officer may not be enabled to reach these gulfs before the close of the year, we are glad to profit by the information afforded by Mr. Brooke, who visited Symi in his yacht during the spring of the past year.]

On the authority of Pliny, V. 28, the *Sinus Doridis* was included between the *Triopium Promontory* and that of *Cynossema*, and this space, with which the ancients were well acquainted, is scarcely known to modern geography. Even the Island of Symi, lying directly in the track of vessels bound along the coast, is so imperfectly described, that the following brief account may possess some degree of interest as relating to the least-visited portion of the shores of Asia Minor, until a more complete description be obtained.

After visiting various places between Smyrna and Rhodes, we reached the harbour of Panerimiotis,† at the south-western point of Symi, early in the morning of February 2, 1837.

* Syma or Syme, 'Ε Σύμη, Meletius, *Geograph. Ant. et Nov.* Ven. ii. 222.

† Perhaps ἡ πανημιώτισσα, "the most solitary."

Symi is a high rocky and barren island of grey limestone, rising about 1000 feet above the sea, its general outline irregular, and its coasts bold and steep. Deep indentations mark both the northern and southern extremities of the island. The soil is extremely unproductive, but the inhabitants cultivate every available patch of ground between the rocks with great assiduity. Commerce and enterprise have rendered this unpromising spot a thriving mart. It is a *depôt* for sponge and wood. The former article is found in the neighbouring seas, and employs the male population during the summer to procure it. France is the great outlet for the coarser, and England for the finer kind of this article, but some of it is carried direct to its destination. Greek boats come from Rhodes, Greece, Smyrna, &c., to convey the sponge previous to its shipment in European vessels. This intermediate carrying trade is useful and lucrative to the boatmen of Symi in particular, and generally to those of the whole coast and islands. The second export, wood, is collected in the Gulf of Symi, and along the coast to the eastward towards Makri and Marmorice,* and exported from the island even as far as Alexandria, whence ships come for their cargoes. The possession of three harbours affords Symi these resources, and it is pleasing to observe the active use they make of these natural advantages. The island is included in the Páshalik of Rhodes, and their annual tax amounts to 27,000 piastres, about 270*l.*,—a very light burden divided among a population of not less than 7,000 persons.

At the southern extremity of Symi is the island of Kiskilies, a picturesque and fertile spot, about a mile or more in extent. Off the Kiskilies (so called in the charts) on the S. E. side is a detached cluster of rocks and an islet near them. To the westward is likewise an islet, with a narrow but deep passage between it and the larger island. A passage of a mile or more divides Kiskilies from Symi; it is deep and clear from danger, but the wind is not to be trusted, on account of the high land. At the S. W. angle of the island of Symi is the harbour of Panerimiotis:—a deep bay incloses the mouth of the port, which is narrow and formed by natural piers. It faces N. W. In coming from the southward, after rounding Kiskilies,† the outer bay will easily be discerned from its depth, and the right shore may be kept on board until the harbour's mouth opens. The best leading marks into the port, however, are four islands which run out from the westernmost point of Symi. From the outer one of these islands the compass course E. by S. will conduct to the harbour's mouth. The headland on the left hand going in, which forms the western

* Mermerichah, from the Slavonian and Greek Marmaritzá, a diminutive of Marmara.

† Probably from the Latin Quisquiliæ, "chips."

extremity of the bay, is bold and projecting, but a rock or shoal is reported to lie off it; and it will, therefore, be advisable to give it a berth on coming from the northward and westward. The harbour's mouth is about two hundred yards wide and deep, within a short distance of either shore. The soundings just within the entrance are six fathoms, then five, four, and three. The harbour has three, and a quarter less three fathoms all over it—is oval in shape, and secure from all winds, but the holding ground is not very good. Its breadth is about half a mile, and it forms a convenient shelter for small vessels. At the bottom of the bay is the monastery of Panerimiotis, inhabited by a few Greek monks: they were very civil and obliging, and furnished us with a bullock, some poultry, and vegetables, but, generally speaking, wood, water, and provisions must be brought from the capital in boats, as the Caloyers are the only inhabitants, and the road to the town is over steep and rugged mountains.

Symi, the capital and only town on the island, is a thriving place, situated on an acclivity above the Scala* or landing-place in the bottom of the bay at the north-eastern angle of the island, and facing the Gulf of Symi, which from the centre of the bay bears E.N.E. The sailing directions for the Archipelago place this harbour at the wrong end and wrong side of the island, evidently confounding the Scala of Symi with the port of Panerimiotis.

The harbour is long and narrow, with deep water, and vessels lie close in with their warps made fast to the shore. To make the port from the northward, round the headland with a small islet off it, and steer S.W. $\frac{1}{2}$ S. (by compass) for the anchorage. Approaching from the southward, round the Windmill Hill, which forms the south-eastern point of the bay, and keeping the southern shore on board, steer directly for the Scala. On coming from the southward, however, the town of Symi will be seen on the hill at the head of a deep bight, before rounding Windmill Hill, but this bight must not be mistaken for the harbour.

Here is a castle with remains of Cyclopean walls, and on the Windmill Hill is a circular Hellenic building, said to be the trophy erected by the Lacedemonians on their defeating the Athenian squadron. These, with fragments of other walls and terraces, are sufficient perhaps to identify the present with the site of the ancient town.

The harbour called Nimborio by the natives, *alias* Emporio, is to the northward of the Scala, and divided from it by a rocky

* Scala, a staircase or ladder, has since the time of the Genoese and Venetian predominance in the Archipelago, been the common term for a harbour throughout the Levant; the Turks have converted it into Iskeleh, and the French into Echelle.—F. S.

ridge; it is situated at the bottom of a bay, but as we did not visit it, I can say nothing beyond pointing out its situation.

My impression of the island of Symi is altogether favourable. Nothing can exceed the barrenness and sterility of its limestone mountains, but its harbours afford a source of wealth which supplies the defects of its soil. Every thing bespeaks commercial vigour and prosperity. Provisions of all descriptions can be obtained—we even procured *rum* and *potatoes*, articles unknown at Rhodes.

The population of Symi may be about 1000 persons. The women are diminutive and plain; their costume is a long, loose quilted jacket, and a scanty red petticoat; a huge turban composed of manifold handkerchiefs surmounts the head, and their legs are adorned with large boots. From the neck to the waist they wear a line of round silver ornaments, and appear fond of decking themselves with trinkets. Of the men it is difficult to judge, since natives and foreigners are confounded; as agents and merchants from various sea-ports live here to purchase sponge, and together with Greek skippers and pilots, form a miscellaneous race.

After a stay of a few days in the island our party started on a boat excursion for the Gulf of Symi. Passing between Symi and the Kiskilies we stretched across to the main-land, where, the wind dying away, we took to our oars and pulled gently along. If Symi be little known, what can I say of the main-land? The charts are an absolute dead letter, not giving the faintest resemblance to the coast. There are *two* headlands where the charts lay down Cape Volpo;* one stretches to the southward, and the other approaches the island of Symi. From the latter of these points (probably the Cape Volpo of the charts) the coast forms a capacious bay, *before* reaching the larger gulf. Two other headlands, nearly on the same meridian as the former, lie between the above-mentioned bay and the Gulf (so called) of Symi. Off the southernmost of these is a dangerous patch of rocks, which was barely above water when we saw it. The bearing of the N. point of Symi from the shoal is W. by N. The nearest headland towards the Gulf of Symi N.E. The east point of Kiskilies S.S.W. Distance from the shore from half to three quarters of a mile.

Rounding the two headlands already mentioned, the Gulf is open. Five islands lie on the right or southern shore; the three first small, the two last much larger. The larger islands are so shut in with the main as apparently to form a separate bay. Within these islands the main-land is bold and indented. Passing

* Cynos-sema (Dog's Tomb) of the ancients, called Alepú (Fox) by the modern Greeks. Volpo is the vulgar word for Volpe.—F. S.

a deep bight opposite the fourth island, we pulled along under a bold and precipitous cliff. The scenery was grand and imposing, and the various openings and curves of the bay before us kept our attention on the stretch. There are patches of cultivation on the larger islands; an islet lies between the fifth island and main. At the termination of the cliff a large bay opens, affording a most attractive view. On the further shore of this bay are the ruins of a city and castle crowning the summit of a hill, from 800 to 1000 feet high. Considerable remains of Cyclopean walls exist amid the later works of the Byzantine period, and traces of tombs and foundations are numerous in the valley below. The situation is steep and difficult of access. The castle, from its extent, must have been a place of importance, and the ancient city by no means insignificant. Leaving this bay we proceeded into the bight, where, about one mile and a half from the beach, the village of Bidelos, containing about 200 persons, is situated, and through which flows a small stream. A short distance further the shore recedes and forms another deep and varied bay; on one side is a rocky island. There are ancient remains all along the shore of this bay, and on the neighbouring hills. They consist entirely of terraces and portions of wall chiefly Cyclopean, but too numerous and too much scattered to admit the belief that they all belonged to one city. From the nature of the materials, there is little hope of finding inscriptions: one, however, I discovered in the ruins of a Greek church. The scenery here is of the finest and most picturesque nature: the valley lies enclosed by an amphitheatre of pine-clad and craggy mountains, through which a stream winds its course, and discharges itself into an inner basin formed by a neck of sand. There is another village, of about forty houses, situated rather more than a mile up the stream. In this bay we passed our second night, in a situation as cool and as picturesque as the former—our huge fire burned clearly against a few blocks of an ancient wall, and the remains of a more recent building partly protected us from the night air. At the further extremity of the Gulf is another castle, and probably an ancient city: we did not land, for our time was limited. Glancing therefore at the extremity of the Gulf, we crossed to the northern shore and sailed along it. It is barren, red, and not so deeply indented, forming from its colour a strong contrast with the opposite coast.

The narrowest part of the Gulf is nearly abreast of the fifth island, perhaps about two miles, and its depth may be roughly estimated from twelve to fourteen miles.

We did not follow the shore further than a spot which we called Gothic Isle; but could perceive many bays and curves towards the entrance of the Gulf. From Gothic Isle the land trends away towards the isthmus which forms the Triopium promontory. This neck of land between the Gulfs of Cos and Symi is narrow

throughout its whole extent; but though we had no opportunity of landing to ascertain the exact point where the Cnidians proposed dividing their promontory from the main, I feel no hesitation in saying that the spot is, where the land sinks into a bay, bearing N. by W. from Symi. This bay is deeper than generally represented; the coast comparatively low, and the water of the Gulf of Cos visible from Symi and other places. It appears very narrow, but whether exactly five stadia across, I am unable to say, and it would, perhaps, be best to leave the naming of the various features to those who are better acquainted with the ancient geography of the Gulf. I will, however, venture to glance at the ancient account of the Sinus Doridis. The limits of the Gulf may be fixed between the Triopium Promontorium* and the headland called Cynos-sema. Within the Gulf were the three subordinate bays of Bybassus,† Schænus, and Thymnias.‡ The Triopium Peninsula met the Bubassian or Bybassian Peninsula, and at the junction was the proposed cut of the Cnidians. Nothing can agree better with our observations. A deep bay is formed at the junction of the two Peninsulas, which it is just to suppose is the Bubassius Sinus. The city of Acanthus was in this bay,§ and a Greek of Symi informed us of some ruins situated in the bight on the Triopium Peninsula. I regret we did not examine this more minutely, but the deep bay and the narrow isthmus joining the two Peninsulas is beyond doubt. The bay we did examine (called the Gulf of Symi) may be either Thymnias or Schænus; on Cramer's authority I call it the latter. Several towns were situated within it. It may be observed that Colonel Leake places Asseréna at the extremity of the bay near the shore; Cramer omits this town,|| but remains do exist in the place marked by Colonel Leake. Hyda was likewise within this bay, and the ruins of the city on the hill being considerable may be referred to that place. There are likewise other remains which might justly have been looked for.

If this slight sketch of the topography of this Gulf be correct, and it appears probable, the Aphrodisian Promontory will be found distinctly marked between the two bays.¶ The Sinus Thymnias (entirely omitted in modern charts) will likewise be evident, and Cape Volpo will be the Cynos-sema Promontorium.

I will here conclude these remarks of a hasty visit to a most interesting locality, which added, and still adds, the charm of novelty to the higher interests of antiquity and natural beauty.

* Now Cape Krio.

† *Βύβασσος*.

‡ Cramer, *Asia Minor*, ii, 189. § In the Peninsula of Cnidus (Steph. Byz.).

|| Because it is modern, not ancient.—F. S.

¶ “Three bays in succession,” says Mele (i. 16), “Thymnias, Schænus, Bubassius. Aphrodisium is the Promontory of Thymnias; Schænus surrounds Hyda, Bubassius (i. e. Bubassian bay), Acanthus.” He is travelling from S.E. to N.W. Dr. Cramer has overlooked the order of these bays.—F. S.